

**New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
September 1, 2016

**Appointments/Public Comment:** Lyndeborough Road CA Steward Wendy McEtterick, and Skofield CA Steward Tom Sullivan were present to meet the CC and learn more about the CAs they are going to steward. Barbara gave them the field files and Louise gave them a trail ranger T-shirt. Wendy will meet with Barbara to learn how to steward the Lyndeborough Road CAs and how to fill out the monitoring forms required by the state for that CA. These CAs were acquired with LCIP money so the state has its own form and a website for reference (<https://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/programs/clsp/lcip-municipalities/index.htm>). The Skofield CA only requires the CC monitoring form.

Barbara then reviewed New Boston's Conservation properties in detail as follows:

- There are nine CAs.
- There are approximately six Conservation Easements. These are usually monitored by the Open Space Committee, except the Marvell Conservation Easement.
- The Marvell Conservation Easement was monitored by the Forestry Committee and abuts the DeRoeth Conservation Easement. These easements are hoped to be connected by trails someday. A workday will be scheduled to build a bridge at the Bailey Pond/DeRoeth trail. The trails at the Marvell Easement are accessible to the public with advance permission from the landowner.
- Some CAs also have easements from other groups such as SPNHF who also monitor those properties.
- There are three town forests with trails. These are at the Sherburne, Lydia Dodge and O'Rourke lots. The CC volunteered to do trail work for these areas and monitor them. Adam and his trail ranger crew are working on them.
- The CC thanked the volunteers for their willingness to help on these projects!

Willard Dodge was present to discuss concerns with the CC as follows:

- BDCA needs to be mowed. Barbara asked if Bill Dodge's equipment would fit at the CA as it is getting overgrown. The CC has a DR Mower but it cannot mow the CA in its overgrown state. The CC wants the CA mowed and will pay for the work but wants to make sure the appropriate equipment is available and the work is done on time. Willard noted it was last mowed fall 2015 and it needs to be mowed yearly. The CC decided this needs to be mowed now.
- SPCA needs to be mowed. SPCA Steward Gordon Russell worked with Matt Tarr from UNH and they came up with a new mowing protocol for the SP field where 1/3 of the field will be mowed each year with careful attention to wildlife habitats. Willard was concerned that this might cause too much growth in the off years and cause the need to hire a machine to mow.
- Willard said the New Boston Road Committee is working to determine if the town or the state is in control of Bailey Pond Road. This is to allow Highway Department plow trucks to turn around at the end of the road when plowing in the

winter. Willard will continue working on this with NH Fish and Game and keep the CC informed.

- The Hillsborough County Youth Center Map 8 Lot 38 is a 100-acre fairground property owned by a Board of Directors. Willard recently resigned from this Board after twenty-five years. He noted the new Board recently considered eliminating the easement on the property given to the town from Hilldale Lane to the Rail Trail entrance. There may also be a discrepancy on the deed as it was supposed to be a 12' wide easement through the property with a 20' wide easement on the Rail Trail, but the final deed may say 20' width the entire way. This will be researched and all parties are expected to agree to drop the easement to 12' width through the property and 20' width at the Rail Trail. Willard also noted the organization is not sure if it wants to continue to be part of the New Boston community as there are community members who use the property often, and should not if an event is going on. Willard asked the CC to help educate the community to refrain from using the property if there is an event going on. Laura put something on the town website about this. The main Rail Trail parking area is only advertised as Lang Station, not the fairgrounds. The Youth Center property is private property. There used to be a sign saying this. The CC discussed options such as making a sheet saying parking is at Lang Station for event holders to distribute to anyone coming to the property when events are going on, temporary or permanent signs, speed bumps and gates. Gerry will design a sign to show Willard and the CC for approval to be placed at the fairground entrance.
- Louise said the decision on mile marker signs will not be made until the Rail Trail is complete. The Hillsborough County Youth Center Board decided they don't want signs on the property.
- Willard is working on a concrete bridge on the Rail Trail. He put green posts up and will get materials for the handrail.
- The CC thanked Willard for his help.

**Betsey Dodge Monitoring:** Lauren and Regan from SPNHF monitored the BDCA with CC Stewards Louise and Dana Robie and noted Susan MacDonald is building a new shed on her property line shared with BDCA. Laura told Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter about this.

**“Conservation Easement” Discussion With Counsel:** Barbara wants Conservation Easement wording to be used in future Conservation Easement deeds. This issue came up with a subdivision at Joe English/McCurdy Roads that abuts the Clark Conservation Easement property. The developer wanted to cut some trees on the subdivision property, obtained NH DES approval, started cutting on the land and accidentally cut some trees on Alexander Clark's property. The developer stopped cutting and the property owners worked this out. The CC subsequently looked at the deed that noted conservation land. The pseudo Conservation Easement deed was researched and found to restrict cutting on the developer's land. He completely stopped cutting once he learned that the logger had trespassed on Clark's property. The CC needs to come up with standard language for open space protection using valid conservation easement deeds or deed restriction

guidelines for the Planning Board. Laura contacted a land conservation attorney to discuss coming up with language that would provide open space protection guidelines.

**Discussion Re: Dam Work:** A manmade dam is being constructed on the Piscataquog River at Map 3 Lot 9 where they are crossing the river with construction equipment. NH DES should have been notified before construction began. Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter called the DES Dam Bureau and they are going to inspect.

**Correspondence Received:**

- Laura e-mailed information to all CC members about a free NH Sustainability Forest Initiative Workshop regarding the NH Tree Farm Program. This is open to all CC and Forestry Committee members. The Forestry Committee is working to become part of the NH Tree Farm Program. Adam is planning to attend the workshop.
- The CC sponsors two New Boston children to go to Barry Conservation Camp each summer. Nicole Fillmore and Sean Hunter were sponsored this year and sent thank you notes to the CC. The CC is looking forward to this sponsor opportunity next year.

**Any Other Business That Needs To Be Discussed:**

- Maralyn e-mailed a list of Action Items for each member. Please review your list and send any updates to her.
- The CC needs to hire someone to cut some trees on Parker Road to have fill brought in for Phase II of the Rail Trail project. Laura will check if Jon Strong is available.

Respectfully submitted,

Maralyn Segien